



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

April 28, 2013

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
Rockwood, TN 37854
865-354-0855

Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Bobby Bear
Kendall Bear
Larry Brackett
Roger Carter
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Kirby Hinds

Secretary:

Susan Chandler

Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:30 pm

Monday

Ladies Class 10 am

Email:

rockwdcc@gmail.com

Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

ARE YOU JUST GOING TO SIT THERE?

Boy, if I had a quarter for every time I've either made the statement or heard it said, "*Are you just going to sit there?*" No doubt, many of you, as you read this article, recall times when such a question was asked of you. Husbands, we're generally on the receiving end of that question. Our wives come in to where we spend a great deal of our time (reclining on the couch), and ask us to do something. We hear them, but we don't hear them (selective hearing). Finally, after a few times of politely asking, they say more forcefully, "*Are you just going to sit there?*" For whatever reason, those always seem to be the magic words. It's up and at 'em time!

Moses, as he was preparing the Israelites for their conquest of Canaan said something very similar (**Numbers 32:1**). Reuben and Gad, two of the twelve tribes, approached Moses with a proposition. Their request was that they stay put right where they were and not go over the Jordan. The land was quite suitable for their needs; thus, they supposed it would be best just to stay put while the rest of Israel crossed over. Moses responded, "*Shall your brethren go to war, and shall ye sit here?*" (**Numbers 32:6**). Staying put while the remaining tribes crossed over for battle would have been most discouraging to say the very least (**Numbers 32:7**). Moses' reply was simple this, "*Are you just going to sit here while the rest of your brethren go and fight?*" Theirs was a battle to be won and sitting there was not going to bring about victory!

One thing I've learned down through the years is this, you can't move forward while sitting still! God's people have always been required to move forward! Think about it. To receive our promised inheritance (salvation) we, by faith, must "*Arise and be baptized...*" (**Acts 22:16**). To cross the proverbial Jordan of life and receive heaven, we must continually "*Press toward the mark*" (**Philippians 3:14**). While on that journey, we can't sit still (remain where we're at) spiritually (**Hebrews 5:11-14**). In addition, we can't expect to grow numerically if we remain seated on our favorite padded pew. We've got to go out to where lost sinners are and compel them to come to Christ (**Luke 14:23**).

There's a battle to be won and YOU are needed. Are you just going to sit there?

Terry R. Townsend

THE SILENCE OF THE SCRIPTURES

“I don’t understand the concept of the silence of the Scriptures.” This is an increasingly voiced sentiment. However, we do understand the prohibitive nature of the silence of the Scriptures to some degree. For example, take the Lord’s Supper. Jesus said, *“This do in remembrance of me.”* This is a positive command. Jesus didn’t have to explain who NOT to remember. Jesus didn’t say, “Don’t remember Abraham. Don’t remember Moses. Don’t remember Joshua. Don’t remember David. Don’t remember Hezekiah. Don’t remember John the baptizer.” I don’t know of any religious group observing the Lord’s Supper in remembrance of anyone but Jesus. Would it be sinful during the Lord’s Supper to remember someone other than Jesus? Yes. That shows a basic understanding of the silence of the Scriptures.

It is not difficult to apply this same principle to other areas of worship. When it comes to singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, the New Testament doesn’t equivocate. The passages that speak of music in the church are limited. None mention instruments. All mention singing. Conclusion! The positive command regarding music in the church is “Sing!” No one denies this. All agree that singing occurred. So why conclude that singing only is God’s desire? The Scriptures are silent on the use of instruments.

Is that silence permissive? Is that silence prohibitive? Can the Scriptures answer these questions? Yes? The examples of Nadab and Abihu teach that God’s silence is prohibitive (**Leviticus 10:1-2**). God’s commands to Noah to build the ark teach that God’s silence is prohibitive (**Genesis 6:22**). Silence prohibited the church at Corinth from calling themselves Paulites (**I Corinthians 1:13**). Silence prohibited Jesus from being a priest under the Law of Moses. **Hebrews 7:14** says, *“For is evident that our Lord sprang out of Judah; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood.”* Silence prohibited the exaltation of angels to positions of divine authority (**Hebrews 1:5, 13**). In each of these examples God’s positive commands limit what may be done. *“This do in remembrance of me.”* No further explicit prohibition is necessary.

When we consider that man is not authorized to do anything he wants to do in worship (**John 4:24**), that worship becomes meaningless when we elevate human tradition (the use of instruments) to doctrine in worship (**Matthew 15:9**), that we cannot approach God in worship with a display of our righteousness (**Romans 10:2-3**), and the prohibitive nature of the silence of the Scriptures, we conclude it is sinful to worship God with the instrument.

May we strive to make our worship pure, holy and acceptable to God. May we prostrate ourselves before His majestic throne with glory, honor, and thanksgiving. May we have the utmost spirit of humility as we contemplate His sovereignty, magnificence, and beauty (**Revelation 4**). May we realize that we are created for His pleasure and we do not live to serve self in offering worship. (**Revelation 4:11**).

Kevin Cauley